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NOVEMBER 18.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Thirty-seven persons present.

The deaths of Eli K. Price, C. P. Bayard and J. Edwards Farnum, members, were announced.

Urnatella gracilis.—Prof. LEIDY remarked that Mr. E. Potts had given to him, in October, 1883, a fragment of a tree-branch on which were many groups of *Urnatella*. The fragment, three inches by one-third of an inch, was obtained in the fore-bay at Fairmount. Around its middle, for about an inch in length, there were thirty separate groups of *Urnatella*, in nearly all consisting each of two stems, of unequal length, and devoid of terminal polyps. The stems diverged and curved downward and were quiescent, but were evidently living, as they exhibited slight sensitiveness to disturbance. The specimen was placed in an aquarium, exposed to the north light of a window, and in this position, at the moderate temperature of usual living-rooms, was kept during the winter. In March the stems were observed all to have developed polyps at the distal end, in which condition they continue at the present time (April). Most stems are terminated by a single polyp, but a few exhibit a smaller polyp, supported on a cylindrical joint springing from the antepenultimate joint of the stem, including the terminal polyp. The stems are quite irritable and bend in graceful curves from each other on the slightest disturbance. The longer stems even hang their heads in a single spiral turn. The longest stems consist of a dozen joints and measure about the one-eighth of an inch. The shortest stems exhibit one-third the number of joints. The stems appear alternately white and black, the former color corresponding with the thicker portion of the joints, the latter with the constricted portions. Many of the mature joints exhibit traces of the cup-like remains of attachment of branches, in most cases on one side only.

These specimens appear to indicate that, as in the other fresh-water polyzoa, the polyps die on the approach of winter, but the headless stems appear to remain, securely anchored, and ready to reproduce the polyps in the spring. If portions of the stems are destroyed, the remaining joints are capable of reproducing the polyps, commonly from the summit of the terminal joint. Branches usually spring from the last one or two joints, newly produced from that which immediately supports the terminal polyp. Specimens also show that heads may start laterally from old or mature joints. Thus the latter appear to serve as the statoblasts of other fresh-water polyzoa, but ordinarily they do not become isolated from one another. As no specimens have been seen with stems consisting of more than a dozen joints, perhaps after reaching this condition, the polyps become detached, to establish new groups.

The following were ordered to be printed ;—